

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 02119 081232Z

12

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 ACDA-10 SAM-01 NEAE-00

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O 081033Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7153

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NY

USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 2119

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE

SUBJECT: APRIL 8 SYRIAN MEDIA REPORTING ON LEBANON

1. MORNING DAMASCUS BROADCAST DID NOT REFER TO LEBANESE

CRISIS.

2. SHORT AL-BAATH ARTICLE CAPTIONED: "CONTINUOUS
CONTACTS AND CONSULTATIONS FOR HOLDING SESSION OF
LEBANESE PARLIAMENT." AL-BAATH REPORTED CONTINUATION OF
CONTACTS AMONG LEBANESE PARTIES TO PREPARE FOR SATURDAY'S
PARLIAMENTARY SESSION WHICH HOPEFULLY WILL MARK "BEGINNING
OF MELTING THE ICE OF DISPUTE AND FOR RETURNING DEMO-
CRATIC DIALOGUE TO POLITICAL LIFE." PRESS CITED BEIRUT'S
AL-NAHAR THAT AMENDMENT OF ARTICLE 73 PRACTICALLY ASSURED,
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AND NOTED THAT SOME LEBANESE DEPUTIES EXPECT ELECTION OF

PRESIDENT COULD TAKE PLACE TUESDAY. PRESS REFERRED TO FRANGIE MESSAGE TO SYG WALDHEIM PRAISING SYRIAN MEDIATION. AL-BAATH NOTED STATEMENT BY LEBANESE SPOKESMAN WHO CALCULATED APRIL 6 CASUALTY TOLL AT 41 KILLED AND 21 WOUNDED; SPOKESMAN CLAIMED MANY LEBANESE DISTRICTS NOW CALM. AL-THAWRAH REPORTED STATEMENTS BY VARIOUS LEBANESE OFFICIALS LAUDING SYRIAN INITIATIVE IN LEBANON.

3. PRESS CONTAINED NO EDITORIAL COMMENTARY ON LEBANON.

4. COMMENT: PRIMARY FOCUS OF ALL MEDIA ATTENTION LAST EVENING AND TODAY WAS ON CELEBRATION OF 29TH ANNIVERSARY OF FOUNDING OF BAATH PARTY.
MURPHY

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NNN

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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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